

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 IO-14 NEA-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OPIC-12 SPC-03 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-10 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /184 W
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P R 061200Z DEC 73

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1308

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L OECD PARIS 10204

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, PFOR

SUBJECT: EC DRIVE TOWARD BILATERALISM

1. OECD SECRETARY-GENERAL VAN LENNEP ASKED TO SEE ME URGENTLY YESTERDAY TO EXPRESS GRAVE CONCERN ABOUT ABOVE SUBJECT. SPEAKING AS EUROPEAN STATESMAN RATHER THAN OECD HEAD, VAN LENNEP WORRIED ABOUT STEADY TREND OF EC, UNDER FRENCH PRESSURE, TO MOVE AWAY FROM OPEN MULTILATERAL SYSTEM TO SERIES OF BILATERAL UNDERSTANDING.

2. HE REPORTED CONVERSATION WITH JAPANESE PERMREP TO OECD, AMBASSADOR YOSHINO, WHO TOOK SAME POSITION AS HE HAS WITH ME ABOUT RELATIONS WITH EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. ACCORDING TO YOSHINO, FRENCH IN TOKYO HAVE PUT EXTREME PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN TO AGREE TO BILATERAL EC-JAPANESE DECLARATION. VAN LENNEP SAYS THAT FRENCH HAVE SUCCEEDED IN GETTING OTHER EC PARTNERS TO INSTRUCT THEIR TOKYO AMBASSADORS SIMILARLY, AND YOSHINO SAYS THAT JAPAN IS ON POINT OF CAPITULATING TO THIS DESIRE. HE MAINTAINS THAT HE AND MANY OTHER JAPANESE WOULD PREFER ADDRESS INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN LARGER
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MULTILATERAL FRAMEWORK.

3. FRENCH PERMREP TO OECD VALERY SAYS THAT COURSE BEING NAVIGATED IS NOT EXCLUSIVE FANTASY OF MINISTER JOBERT, AND THAT PRESIDENT POMPIDOU HAS SUBSTANTIALLY ADOPTED NEW FOREIGN POLICY LINE. PRESIDENT WOULD SUPPORT JOBERT'S IDEA OF FRENCH-LED COMMUNITY MAKING BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH U.S., JAPAN, CANADA, AND EVEN CHINA.

4. COMMENT: YOSHINO SAYS INCLINATION HIS AUTHORITIES TO ACCEPT EC-JAPANESE BILATERAL DECLARATION ATTRIBUTABLE PARTLY TO THEIR FEELING THAT USGG EITHER INDIFFERENT OR ACTUALLY PREFERS IT THAT WAY. WE ARE AWARE OF DIVERSE FACTIONS AND OBJECTIVES WITHIN JAPAN ITSELF, AND IT IS UNCERTAIN TO WHAT EXTENT YOSHINO ACTUALLY REFLECTS TOKYO SITUATION. GIVEN JAPANESE HESITATIONS AND THEIR IMPRESSION THAT USG VACILLATING BETWEEN 3-4 WAYS OF "SOMEHOW ASSOCIATING" JAPAN IN CURRENT U.S.-EUROPEAN DISCUSSIONS OF PRINCIPLES, ROAD IS OPEN TO EXERTION OF OUTSIDE PRESSURE.

5. I BELIEVE THAT VAN LENNEP'S CONCERN EXPLAINABLE IN PART BECAUSE HE FEARS THAT NETHERLANDS MAY ALSO BE CRACKING UNDER PRESSURE FROM OTHER EC MEMBERS (SS THE HAGUE'S 5198, PARA 3-4) TO LOOSEN MULTI-LATERAL (READ "U.S.") TIES.

6. IT IS BECAUSE OF HIS ANXIETY ABOUT DRIFT TOWARD BLOCS AND BILATERALISM, HE SAYS, THAT VAN LENNEP WOULD LIKE TO SEE STOESSEL OR SECRETARY (AS I HAVE MENTIONED BY PHONE).
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973OECDP10204
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: OECD PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731241/aaaabdxs.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Aug-2001 by garlanwa>; APPROVED <26-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EC DRIVE TOWARD BILATERALISM
TAGS: EGEN, PFOR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005